

Status of Claims

Claims 1-39 are pending following entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 18, 23-29 and 31-34 being the independent claims.

Conclusion

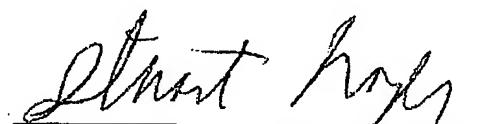
Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing places this application in condition for allowance. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned to clarify any unresolved issues raised by this amendment. The foregoing represents a bona fide attempt to advance the present case to allowance. Applicants respectfully request early notification of the same.

Fees

If there any fees due and owing in respect to this amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,

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